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BOOK REVIEW

Taxonomists glossary of genitalia in insects. Edited by S. L. Tuxen. 1970. Second edition. Munksgaard, Copenhagen (available in U.S. from S-H Service Agency, Inc., P. O. Box 2000, 260 Heights Rd., Darien, CT 06820). 359 p., 248 fig. Hard cover, \$27.50.

The 1956 first edition of this title was a landmark in establishing some standardization and homologies for the complicated and voluminous terms applied to insect genitalia. This new edition contains 5400 terms which are defined. Sixty-six of the 248 figures are new, and 8 of the chapters have been completely rewritten. The authors comprise 35 of the top taxonomic specialists.

Snodgrass has said "The great structural diversity in the genitalia of insects is the delight of taxonomists and the despair of morphologists." Tuxen (p. 9) follows this quote appropriately: "May the present work help to heighten the delight and diminish the despair."

The chapter on Coleoptera (p. 80-88) is authored by C. H. Lindroth and Ernst Palmen. Unfortunately this chapter shows little improvement over the previous edition, and it provides a very cursory treatment of the wide variety of beetle genitalia. Obviously 10 figures and about 5 pages of text are insufficient, even for a general treatment of the largest and most diverse order of insects. It provides a useful introduction.

The most serious objection I have to this valuable reference is the unusually high price. Even the specialized references which would expect half the sales volume are priced much below this volume. The binding, although hard cardboard, is far from a quality cloth binding which should be expected at this high price. The volume should be in every library, but the cost will probably deter sales to individual taxonomists.—R. E. Woodruff.